

Whereas ALS can strike individuals of any age, but it predominantly strikes adults;

Whereas it is estimated that tens of thousands of individuals in the United States have ALS at any given time;

Whereas, based on studies of the population of the United States, slightly more than 5,600 individuals in the United States are diagnosed with ALS each year, and 15 individuals in the United States are diagnosed with ALS each day;

Whereas, between 2015 and 2040, the number of ALS cases around the world is expected to increase by nearly 70 percent;

Whereas the majority of individuals with ALS die of respiratory failure;

Whereas, in the United States, military veterans may be up to twice as likely to be diagnosed with ALS than the general public;

Whereas, as of the date of introduction of this resolution, there is no cure for ALS;

Whereas the spouses, children, and family members of individuals living with ALS provide support to those individuals with love, day-to-day care, and more; and

Whereas an individual with ALS, and the caregivers of such an individual, can be required to bear significant costs for medical care, equipment, and home care services for the individual as the disease progresses: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2021 as “ALS Awareness Month”;

(2) affirms the dedication of the Senate to—

(A) ensuring individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (referred to in this resolving clause as “ALS”) have access to effective treatments as soon as possible;

(B) identifying risk factors and causes of ALS to prevent new cases;

(C) empowering individuals with ALS to engage with the world in the way they want;

(D) reducing the physical, emotional, and financial burdens of living with ALS; and

(E) ensuring all individuals with ALS and their caregivers receive high quality services and supports that benefit them; and

(3) commends the dedication of the family members, friends, organizations, volunteers, researchers, and caregivers across the United States that are working to improve the quality and length of life of ALS patients and the development of treatments and cures that reach patients as soon as possible.

SENATE RESOLUTION 256—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE NEED TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE THE ORIGINS OF COVID-19

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 256

Whereas COVID-19 has taken the lives of nearly 3,500,000 individuals around the world;

Whereas understanding the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic is essential to addressing our vulnerabilities and preventing future crises;

Whereas, in May 2020, the World Health Assembly did not authorize a comprehensive investigation into the origins of COVID-19, and instead passed a significantly limited compromise resolution, with Chinese government support, which did not explicitly include in its scope the possibility of a research-related accident;

Whereas the 2020 World Health Assembly resolution and its terms of reference, which

were negotiated privately between the World Health Organization (in this preamble referred to as “WHO”) and Chinese authorities, handed the Chinese government control over the joint-study process by giving the Chinese government veto power over which international experts were allowed to participate in the joint study and by agreeing that most primary research would be carried out by Chinese teams without ensuring broad access to primary data by international experts;

Whereas, as a result of these terms, the significant structural, procedural, and analytical shortcomings of the joint study, and the severe restrictions imposed by Chinese authorities, the WHO-convened joint study into the origins of COVID-19 was prevented from providing a balanced consideration of the multiple theories of the origin of COVID-19;

Whereas only 4 of the 313 pages of the joint-study team report and its annexes addressed the possibility of a laboratory accident, and no thorough examination of the lab incident hypothesis was carried out by the joint-study team;

Whereas some of the international experts on the joint-study team stated that they lacked the means and resources to properly investigate the research-related accident hypothesis, and they were neither able nor meant to do such a full investigation but instead were acting as a “study review group”;

Whereas WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus commented on March 30, 2021, the day the joint-study report was released, “I do not believe that [the joint-study team’s] assessment [of a possible lab incident] was extensive enough. Further data and studies will be needed to reach more robust conclusions . . . potentially with additional missions involving specialist experts, which I am ready to deploy.”;

Whereas the WHO Director-General further commented, “As far as WHO is concerned all hypotheses remain on the table . . . We have not yet found the source of the virus, and we must continue to follow the science and leave no stone unturned as we do . . . It is clear that we need more research across a range of areas, which will entail further field visits.”;

Whereas the March 30, 2021 Joint Statement on the WHO-convened COVID-19 Origins Study by the United States and 13 other countries recognized the severe shortcomings of the joint-study process and called for “a transparent and independent analysis and evaluation, free from interference and undue influence.”;

Whereas, in spite of the devastation the COVID-19 pandemic has caused in the United States and around the world, no process currently exists to ensure a comprehensive investigation into the source of COVID-19;

Whereas such an investigation is essential for ensuring this type of crisis never happens again for the benefit of all people, all nations, and future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) a comprehensive investigation to determine the origins of COVID-19 must be conducted by the World Health Organization immediately, with access to all relevant records, samples, and personnel in China, and that such investigation must fully explore all possible sources of the COVID-19 pandemic, including exclusively “natural” zoonosis in the wild, human contamination in an animal farm, and a research-related accident;

(2) the United States delegation to the World Health Assembly should, in concert with allies and partners around the world, work to ensure that an international scientific investigation into the origins of

COVID-19, with full access to all relevant records, samples, and personnel in China, will be authorized by the World Health Assembly and implemented with extreme urgency; and

(3) should such a full investigation not be authorized by the 2021 World Health Assembly, then the United States Government should immediately begin planning a comprehensive and data-driven investigation into the COVID-19 pandemic origins, in concert with willing partner governments and experts around the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 257—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE MARSHALL UNIVERSITY THUNDERING HERD MEN’S SOCCER TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2020 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I MEN’S SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 257

Whereas, on May 17, 2021, the Marshall University Thundering Herd men’s soccer team (in this preamble referred to as the “Thundering Herd”) defeated the Indiana University Hoosiers by a score of 1 to 0 in overtime in the 2020 National Collegiate Athletic Association (in this preamble referred to as the “NCAA”) Division I national championship game;

Whereas the 2020 NCAA Division I national championship is the first national championship in the history of the men’s soccer program at Marshall University and the University’s first Division I championship in any sport;

Whereas the Thundering Herd is the first active member of the Conference USA to win a NCAA national championship in any sport;

Whereas the 2020 NCAA men’s soccer season was moved from the fall of 2020 to the spring of 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic;

Whereas the Thundering Herd overcame the adversity of the season, finishing with a record of 13 wins, 2 losses, and 3 draws;

Whereas the Thundering Herd were the Conference USA regular season champions, earning the team a bid to the NCAA tournament;

Whereas the number 10 seeded Thundering Herd won 4 games in the NCAA tournament leading up to the national championship game, by defeating the number 23 seeded Fordham University, the number 1 seeded Clemson University, the number 8 seeded Georgetown University, and the number 16 seeded University of North Carolina;

Whereas Jamil Roberts scored his third game-winning goal in the NCAA Tournament in the 98th minute of the national championship game, solidifying the Thundering Herd’s victory and earning him the title of the NCAA Tournament’s Offensive Most Outstanding Player;

Whereas Nathan Dossantos, Vinicius Fernandes, Max Schneider, and Vitor Dias of Marshall University were named to the NCAA All-Tournament Team;

Whereas in 4 years as head coach, Chris Grassie took the team from missing the Conference USA Tournament in his first season to becoming the 2020 national champions; and

Whereas Coach Grassie has rallied the Sons and Daughters of Marshall University